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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Problems with the microsoft settlement

To the powers that be at the Anti-trust division of the Department of Justice.

We are now in the era of reduced cost wireless communications. Cell phones are increasing in complexity, features, quality, security and capability, while reducing in size and cost.

The consumer has benefitted the most in this evolution and revolution of the managed public airwaves.

What drives this huge benefit for the consumer?? Competition, plain and simple.

Multitudes of companies with new features, concepts and innovation. New technologies being standardized in forums with open communication, and usually the best technology wins

Let's take a look at the computing industry. Since Microsoft has gained a monopoly share of software for computing the cost to the consumer has gone up (windows was less than \$100 at it's inception, and now costs well over \$300). Defects and security issues abound.

Let's take a look at innovation: the basic configuration of a personal computer has not changed since about 1990. We still have a mouse and keyboard, and display. Even Cell phones have eclipsed PC's in one area, voice recognition. Since Netscape was forced to sell itself to AOL to survive, browser innovation has slowed to a snails' pace. Ever since Microsoft tied it's office suite with Windows and dominated the industry, we haven't had any major breakthroughs in workgroup computing and collaboration.

It is clear to those of us in the technology industry that innovation has stagnated during the "Microsoft Era of Dominance".

To allow Microsoft to remain intact as one company, will enable it to extend it's desktop monopoly into future data and voice communications industries. These industries, through competition, are greatly benefitting the consumer. In the present slowdown of the economy, it is not prudent to disallow innovation by allowing one company to hold the keys to the digital future.

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